

Message Text

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20

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-10

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P 170315Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 100

C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 3480

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SREF, PFOR, KS

SUBJECT: PRESIDENT PAK SOUNDS OFF ON HUMAN RIGHTS, VIETNAMESE
REFUGEES AND SELF-DEFENSE

1. IN MAY 16 CEREMONY MARKING ANNIVERSARY OF 1961 MILITARY
COUP, PRESIDENT PAK TOOK US CRITICS TO TASK FOR FAULTING
ROK ON HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUES. WITHOUT SPECIFICALLY
IDENTIFYING HIS TARGET, PAK ASKED QTE HOW CAN FOREIGNERS
TALK ABOUT HUMAN RIGHTS IN KOREA WHEN EVEN FREE WORLD
NATIONS DO NOT ACCEPT VIETNAMESE REFUGEES WHO ESCAPED
FROM COMMUNIST INVASION. UNQUOTE

2. IN SAME SPEECH, PAK INSISTED THAT ROK SHOULD
PREPARE TO COUNTER NORTH KOREAN AGGRESSION QTE AS IF
THERE WERE NO US FORCES IN KOREA. UNQTE

3. COMMENT: LINKING OF KOREAN HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUE AND
QTE FAILURE UNQTE OF FREE WORLD NATIONS TO TAKE
VIETNAMESE REFUGEES DEFIES BOTH LOGIC AND FACT. PAK'S
OUTBURST SEEMS TO BE INDICATIVE, ALONG WITH EMERGENCY
MEASURE 9, OF HIS CURRENT PROPENSITY TO LASH OUT AT HIS
CRITICS WITHOUT DISCRIMINATION. HIS REMARK ON SELF-
DEFENSE CONTINUES HIS EFFORTS TO PLAY DOWN ROK RELIANCE
ON US MILITARY SUPPORT.

SNEIDER

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Message Attributes

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